Export of Carpets and Fabric items

3485. SHRI CHIIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKAR DEVE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of carpets and other fabric items exported to U.S.A. and other countries durtng the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the U. S. Government and some other western countries have imposed a ban on import of carpets from India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action plan prepared by Government to meet the situation and to boost the export of carpets?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) No figures on quantum of hand-made woolen carpets and other floor coverings is maintained, however the value of export of these items including to U. S.A. during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Rs. in Crores	Million US$
1991-92 (Actual)	847.61	343.83
1992-93 (Actual)	1043.19	365.39
1993 94 (Provisional)	1390.00	443.18

The quantum of cotton fabric exported to U.S.A. and other countries durin g the last three years is as under:—

Year	Million Sq. mtrs.
1991-92 . . .	1202.70
1992-93 . . .	1215.01
1993-94 . . .	1322.74

(b) to (d) No ban on import of carpets from India has been imposed by the U.S. Government and other western countries. However the Indian carpet industry at present is under the three of a setback due to adverse publicity within the country and abroad regarding alleged use of child labour in carpet weaving particularly in eastern Uttar Pradesh;

In order to meet the problem and to counter the adverse propaganda being made within and out-side the country, the Government has taken the following measures:—

(i) Enforcement of the relevant child labour laws in the carpet belt in eastern-Uttar Pradesh through the State Government has been strengthened.

(ii) Ministry of Labour, Government of India with the assistance of the International Labour Organisation has been taking several measures under the Intergrat Programme for Eradication of Child Labour. A Nation Authority for Elimination of Child Labour has been set up under the Chairmanship of Minister of Labour.

(iii) Non-fermal education centres have been opened for non-formal education with vocational training for children released from hired labour.

(iv) Welfare measures have been initiated to rehabilitate the displaced children engaged in carpet weaving and their families by providing non-forml education, health care and alternative job opportunities to thetr parents.

(v) A number of NGOs have been motivated to create awareness amongst the parents through the message that bending children to carpet weaving at an early age will be detrimental to their future prospects.

(vi) Registration cum membership of the Carpet Export Promotion Council has been made compulsory for export of handmade carpets and the Council has been motivated in adopting a self regulatory code of conduct.

(vii) Steps have also been taken up at the diplomatic level through our missions abroad to counter the adverse publicity and also to apprise the governments of these countries of the steps being taken by the Government of India for eradication of child labour in carpet weaving.

In order to boost export of carpets from India, the government through Carpet Export Promotion Council has taken the following steps during 1994-95.

(i) Participaed in DOMOTEX International Trade Fair Hannover.

(ii) Participating in buyer-seller meet in Australia.

(iii) Likely to participate in buyer-seller meet in South Africa and Spain.

(iv) Organised International Carpet Trade Fair in Delhi during February, 1995.

(v) Launching promotional anl publicitf abroad to popularise Indian Carpets.

Impact of GATT agreement on Textile Industry

3486. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the impact of GATT agreement on textile industry in general;

(b) what is the foreign exchange earning per annum in textile industry in India during 1989-93;

(c) what is the expected increase in foreign exchange earnings after GATT agreement;

(d) whether it is ax fact that textile industries are adversely affected due to multinational competition;

(e) if so, what steps Government propose to take to tackle such a situation and

(f) if not, what is the increased percentage and amount of foreign exchange earning in the year 1994?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The impact of GATT Agreement on textile Industry in general is good:

(b) The export of textiles including handicraft, jute and coir during 1989-90 to 1993-94 had been as follows:

Year	In US Million dollars
1989-90 . . .	4688.63
1990-91 . . .	5524.50
1991-92 .	5796.84
1992-93 . . .	6599.62
1993-94 . .	7973.91

(c) The Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) included in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round, envisages complete integration of the textile sector into tne multilateral framework of